

## AT A SALE OF COINS.

The Curious Audience Who Attend, Armed with Magnifying Glasses.

An event of peculiar interest to coin collectors happened recently in London. It was the sale by auction of the Montague collection, which was compulsory under the will of the late owner. Some idea of the extent and value of this hoard may be judged from the fact that the sale extended over seven days, and that the average price realized for 63 coins sold during the short period I looked in one day was \$40.

The scene was decidedly interesting, even to those who have no taste for coins except current ones. The salesroom was of moderate dimensions and hung all around with very sombre-looking curtains, against which the eager faces of the dealers and amateurs showed up vividly. Two narrow parallel tables extended down the room from the auctioneer's desk, and some 20 intending buyers sat there, on the outer sides. Up and down the space between walked an attendant, who carried each coin on a small tray as it was put up and thus afforded every one an opportunity for close inspection.

It was curious to note the intense way in which the majority of those present devoted themselves to the business in hand. Rounded shoulders, bent heads, puckered-up faces and a constant use of powerful magnifying glasses, with excited, nervous movements, revealed the extent to which most of them were possessed by the absorbing hobby. Every one spoke in subdued whispers, bidding was done mostly by nods and signs, while the monotonous voice of the auctioneer repeated the over-riding figures as each lot was disposed of. A diversion was caused, at least as far as I was concerned, by the entrance of a seedy-looking individual in a ragged coat and a dilapidated slouch hat very much over one ear, who strolled up to the end of the table, where he stood up for sometime, with his hands deep in his pockets, watching the proceedings with apparent indifference. Suddenly, when a particularly fine gold piece was announced, he started me by bidding \$75 for it straight off. He did not secure the coin, though he stuck to it up to \$230. When it was knocked down he immediately strolled out again, after ostentatiously lighting a dirty-looking pipe.

The big sum of \$3,850 given at this sale for what is known as the Juxon medal caused some sensation, creating, as it did, a record price for any single coin. Its history is well authenticated, and there can be no doubt of its close connection with a unique event in English annals. It was given by Charles I. to Bishop Juxon upon the scaffold just before his execution. One cannot help feeling some surprise that such a relic should have been subject to the indignity of a public auction. After a prolonged and exciting competition it was purchased by a prominent firm of London jewelers, no doubt for exhibition purposes.—N. Y. Mail and Express.

## SHE DIDN'T DOUBT HIM.

But Thought a Little Documentary Evidence Would Do No Harm.

"I wish you were a thousand miles away!" she said, pensively.

He was naturally surprised, as she had been most affectionate all the evening.

"Dearest!" he exclaimed, "what do you mean? How can you say you wish me so far away?"

"O, well, maybe that was exaggeration," she admitted. "Call it a hundred."

"But why even a hundred?" he persisted.

"Well," she explained, "of course I wouldn't have you think that I doubt you for anything in the wide world; but if you were a hundred miles away, you'd write to me, wouldn't you?"

"Of course."

"And if you wrote to me, you'd write all of the loving messages that you now whisper to me?"

"Yes."

"Well, of course, I don't doubt you," continued the modern up-to-date girl, "but I'd feel a lot easier in my mind if I could get you far enough away so that I could get some of this in writing once. There's nothing like documentary evidence."

—Answers.

## Students Take Monday Off.

Monday, instead of Saturday, is the weekly secular holiday observed by the Collegiate Institute at Jackson, Ky., and beginning last November the governors ordered that Thanksgiving day be kept by the institution on the Saturday following the regular feast day, so that studies might not be interrupted in midweek.

## A Bungling Burglary.

Burglars at Kingston, Ontario, tried to blow open a safe door which was not locked, and through faulty work only succeeded in so damaging the door that it could not be opened at all.

"I'll have my own weigh," said the man, as he dropped a penny in the slot. —Yale Record.

## STEEL BALL BEARINGS.

Most of the Little Steel Spheres Are Used for Bicycles.

The Machinery Which Produces Them Is of the Automatic Variety—Complete Description of the Processes of Manufacture.

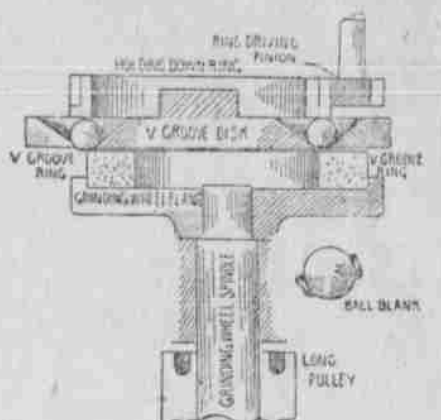
The process of making a complete steel ball from the blank is described in the American Machinist, which says that the making of these balls in this country is in the hands of three companies, all of them east. In short, the process of making the balls is as follows:

The first "blank" is either forged out of a steel bar with a steam hammer, or is turned out by an automatic screw machine, leaving the blank in the shape of a roughly shaped sphere, with two little ribs, one opposite the other, as shown in the illustration. In this form it, with numerous others like it, is fed into the rough grinding machine, where it is started on its way toward the perfect sphere. No attempt is made to cut off the little necks or ribs before the blank is fed into the machine, for the grinding stone soon cuts them away.

The principal part of the rough-grinding machine consists of a "holding-down" ring, which keeps the balls in the V-shaped channel which runs around the "grinding" disk. Below the grinding disk is the grinding wheel, the whole supported on a vertical shaft. The ball blanks are placed in the circular, open-bottomed V-groove, with a flat revolving ring over them, thus giving the blanks three points of bearing by which they are supported, so that the bottom line of the blanks projects a very small distance below the bottom face of the circular ring and the circular disk.

Below the ring is the grinding wheel, which is so supported that it can be "fed" up to the work by the most delicate kind of a feeding device, and is so arranged that the balls travel over the entire face of the wheel. After the rough balls are placed in the machine, the top ring is put down on them, the grinding wheel is fed up to touch the balls and the grinding begins. At first the sparks come in spits and flashes, but soon there is a steady stream of fire, whirling like a ring of spates, which indicates that the balls have been ground to spheres.

The machine then is stopped, and the balls are taken out and measured by a



MACHINE FOR BALL GRINDING.

micrometer gauge. The rough grinding is continued until the balls have been ground down to the required size, which is within one-thousandth inch of the polished and finished ball. The rough balls are taken to the inspector's table, where they are examined for imperfections. Each inspector uses a shallow tray made of pine and finished with shellac varnish. Enough balls are placed in the tray to cover two-thirds of the bottom.

The inspector gives his tray a twist and a turn, which changes the position of every ball and brings them all up close together. Then he holds the tray in such a position that the lights reflect from them. If the balls are round there is a ring of reflected light from each one of them, but any imperfection in the form of a ball distorts the reflection, and this betrays the imperfect ball. Such is lifted from the tray with a magnetized steel pencil, and the selection is carried on until none but perfect balls remain in the tray.

The perfect balls then go to the polishing machine, where they are placed in a groove similar to that in the rough grinding machine, and are covered by a gray iron ring, but otherwise the two machines are entirely different, for there is no grinding wheel in the polishing machine. The balls are polished with oil and fine emery, and every few minutes the operator stops the machine to measure samples of the balls, and this is kept up until the polished balls are of the exact size required.

The next step in the process is to harden the balls. This is done by giving them an oil temper. They first are heated in an iron vessel, which is constantly kept in motion, so that the balls will be evenly heated. When the proper temperature has been reached, the balls are suddenly dropped into oil, and thus receiving temper which makes them hard.

The hardened balls are next placed in an oaken tumbler barrel, where they are tumbled around and up against each other until each ball is burnished until it looks like a globe of mercury. Then they are inspected, measured and sorted, the measuring and assorting being done by very ingenious automatic machinery.

Balls are made from one-eighth inch in diameter to five inches in diameter, the latter for use in pump valves. Most of the balls made for ball-bearings are used in bicycles, but millions of them go into sewing machines, and in other machinery where it is desirable to reduce friction to a minimum.

## Typhoid in America.

There are on the average, nine times as many deaths from typhoid fever in the large cities of the United States as in the many German cities that have secured a purified water supply.

## SHOES THAT BREATHE.

Peculiar Invention of a Salt Lake City (Utah) Shoemaker.

Insolates Provided with Air Chambers and Channels Through Which Air Is Pumped into the Interior of the Shoe.

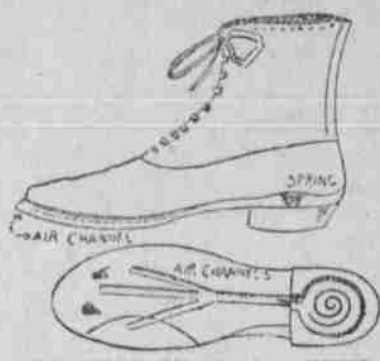
Some people have said that no good thing could come out of Salt Lake City, but Matthew Hilgert, a Mormon shoemaker of a studious mind, claims to have disproved this by inventing what he calls the "breathing shoe." The purpose of the shoe is primarily to provide a means of ventilation for the feet, the necessity for such ventilation, according to the inventor's statement, being alarmingly great. Mr. Hilgert claims that the dread disease of consumption can be directly traced to the wearing of shoes that lack porosity, and which not only cramp the feet and prevent a healthy circulation of the blood, but cause the pedal extremities to become overheated and the skin abnormally surcharged with moisture. Shoemaker Hilgert asserts that the wearer of an unventilated shoe catches cold on the slightest provocation, the cold leads to consumption, and, consequently, to death. On the tombstones of a great percentage of the people who have died of consumption there should be written, according to Shoemaker Hilgert:

"Had he allowed his feet to breathe, the departed would still be breathing."

The invention to enable the feet to breathe consists, according to the New York Journal, of a shoe having an insulate, with three air channels that lead from a common center in the heel. These air channels contain holes through which air can be pumped into the interior of the shoe. The motive power is the muscular movement of the individual who wears the shoe.

Every time the foot comes down on the heel of the shoe the weight presses a spring, which acts in the same way as a pair of bellows. At each step the air is forced through the channels and around the shoe by the motion of the foot. As the movement is shifted from the heel to the toe in walking the air escapes by way of the heel, and when the weight comes down on the heel again a fresh supply is pumped into the shoe.

Mr. Hilgert's novel invention is regarded by leading shoemakers as im-



THE SHOE THAT BREATHE.

portant, inasmuch as there has long been an unsupplied demand for a shoe that would relieve sufferers from that distressing affliction—perspiring extremities—an affliction that is said to be equally as distressing as the kindred complaint of cold feet.

Whatever may be the practical value of Mr. Hilgert's invention, there is no doubt that much truth lies in his theories on the subject of shoe and feet. There is positively no part of the body of the ordinary civilized man or woman which is so maltreated as the feet are. They are clothed with an utter disregard of all hygienic laws. Moreover, the shoes that are worn to-day are probably more injurious than any that have been known in any previous period of the world's history. To this we have come, in spite of our boasted practicality and our disregard of beauty in the pursuit of the useful. Ancient Saxons bound their feet wholely in linen, with things to keep it in place. Medieval men wore comfortable and beautiful shoes of untanned doeskin. The result of the modern state of affairs is too horribly apparent.

## Pigeon Barred by a Dog.

The London Spectator tells of a dog that got into the habit of killing pet fowl pigeons. The dog was punished for the trick several times, but he kept right on killing the pigeons as if he intended to exterminate the race. One day the dog's master shut him up in the kennel and kept him there for a good many hours, to the sorrow of the dog. At last the dog begged so hard to be allowed to go and showed such signs of repentance that he was turned loose. The dog's behavior for some days was perfect and not a pigeon was lost. Then, a week later, the master was in the yard one day and saw a mound of fresh dirt heaving up and down, as if something alive were beneath. The man kicked the dirt and found a live pigeon buried beneath it. The dog had not killed the bird; just buried it alive. Naturally the master thinks his dog can do anything but talk.

## Family of Sixty-Two Children.

The Italians are discussing the advisability of pensioning Mrs. Maddalena Grannatta, a lady of 57, who lives near Nocera, 12 miles from Naples. Her husband has been dead ten years, but during the 19 years they lived together as man and wife they had 62 children born to them, 59 of the lot being males. Eleven different times in nine years triplets were born, and on three different occasions four boys were announced, and once there were four boys and a girl.

## Murder Laws in China.

In China the man who lives nearest the scene of a murder is accused of the crime, and he must prove his innocence or stand the punishment.

## Profit in Gull Feathers.

Gull shooting is a popular sport at Eastport, Me., just at present. The gulls are shot for their feathers, which bring 30 cents a pound.

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## Good Morning.

What a bad night. Worried, can't sleep, feel all tired out. Hard mental work takes away the digestive power and the liver becomes languid; or, perhaps you have overstepped the bounds of moderation. Been eating or drinking too much? In order to promote refreshing sleep after business is over, take a dose of Carlstedt's German Liver Syrup. It steadies the nerves by quietly stimulating the stomach, liver, kidneys and bowels to action thus relieving the brain. It will make you feel alright in the morning. For sale by all druggists, L. L. Elgin special agent Hopkinsville, Ky.

## Be Beautiful.

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—He Still Has Reverence.—"Ah," said the elderly lady, "it is sad to see, but the young men of the present day seem to be lacking totally in reverence." "You don't know our young men, mamma," said the younger lady. "You should start one of them to talking about himself." —Indianapolis Journal.

—A Warm Outlook.—Mrs. Gaswell—"Some people have an idea that we shall pursue in the next world the avocations which occupy our attention in this." Mrs. Dukane—"I am inclined to think there is something in the theory." "Oh, I hope not." "Why?" "Well, my husband is such a confirmed scorcher." —Pittsburgh Chronicle.

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